Rev. Romal J. Tune, CEO
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October 25, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin Commissioners Michael Copps Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell

Dear FCC Chairman & Commissioners:

On behalf of Clergy Strategic Alliances (CSA) I respectfully urge you to approve the pending merger of AT&T and BellSouth. The problems we face in bridging the "digital divide" deserve a two-pronged response – we need to deliver the services to communities that are being left behind, as well as produce the benefits of competition so residents can have choices, control, and last but definitely not least cost savings.

Clergy Strategic Alliances commends AT&T/BellSouth's commitment to offer affordable and universal access to broadband. More specifically CSA applauds the new entity's generous offer of DSL for a low monthly rate of \$10. Also, AT&T/BellSouth pledge that at least 30 percent of new incremental deployment of broadband will be to lower-income housing. These commitments are crucial in ending the "digital divide" and creating an even playing field for all Americans.

CSA strives to improve lives by providing social justice organizing tools to communities of faith. We work with pastors, church members, and grassroots organizations that have a calling to be prophetic in their words and practical in their work. Our goal is to equip churches with the skills necessary to organize around political issues important to the people that they serve. Ultimately, this will lead to policies and programs that create opportunities for empowerment and a better way of life for individuals and their families.

We believe this merger furthers the progress of our goals and will help provide the necessary tools to work toward that better way of life.

We urge you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger.

Sincerely,



Rev. Romal J. Tune Chief Executive Officer Clergy Strategic Alliances, LLC

## "Ministry that Makes a Difference"

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## **CSA Executive Staff**

Rev. Romal Tune President& CEO

Carleton Atkinson, Chief Operations Officer

> Konyia Clark Training Coordinator and Event

## Clients and Service provided to the

The Interfaith Alliances
The United Church of Christ
Democratic National Committee
Center for Community Change
Center for Civic Participation
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Protestants for the Common Good
13th Episcopal District AME Church
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Faith and Public Life Resource Center
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SEIU



Dr. Obery Hendricks New York, NY